



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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CONGRESSIONAL BATTLES.

John A. Corwin, the Veteran Political Writer, Dishes Up Illinois for the Tribune.

He Gives a Slashing Account of the Fights in the Districts Outside Chicago.

There Is Very Little Doing in the Congressional Line Hereabouts at the Present Time.

Mr. John A. Corwin, the veteran political correspondent, writes as follows to the Tribune from Springfield:

"The fights in the Congressional districts outside of Cook are coming on now. A good many conventions have already been called, and the campaign will be exceedingly lively. Cook county is the last to make its Congressional nominations, but the county districts make their selections in the spring and early summer. In some instances the nominations are virtually conceded now, and the field of Congressional news is anything but barren.

The Eighth District will be represented by Mr. A. J. Hopkins, who will be nominated by acclamation. Congressman Childs is in the new Eighth, but will make no contest as against Mr. Hopkins. The district will give a Republican majority of 5,000 or 6,000 at least, and the Democratic nomination is a matter of no moment.

Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson, Jo Daviess, Carroll, Ogle and Lee make the Ninth, a huge Republican district. It is filled with available Congressional timber, but the nomination seems to be drifting toward Mr. Hitt, who will get it by acclamation, unless other candidates bestir themselves.

The new Tenth is composed of Whiteside, Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Knox and Stark Counties and is Republican as against the world. From indications it is safe to say Gen. Post will be nominated, and his election will follow as a matter of course.

The Eleventh District was formed for the express purpose of sending Senator Andy O'Connor to Congress. The beneficiary is in California, and will not accept a nomination which he can have for the asking. The district is Democratic by about 1,800, and the Democrats, strange to relate, are shy of candidates. It looks now as if Representative James A. Smith, of Chataworth, will be the nominee. The Republicans will nominate Gen. Henderson and try their best to carry the district.

Struggle in the Twelfth.

The Twelfth is Republican, and in it dwell Joseph G. Cannon and Mr. Wheeler, both members of Congress at this writing. Mr. Cannon has Vermillion and Mr. Wheeler, Kankakee, Iroquois is in doubt. L. F. Watson, Dr. Seerist and Mr. Hiltcher favor Cannon. Aleck South, Thos. Vennum and others are fighting for Wheeler. The delegation will probably divide about half and half. Will is the battle-ground. Both Cannon and Wheeler are striving to get it. Senator Cullom has many friends in Will. His brother, Henry, has just finished a term of four years as Postmaster at Joliet. The Republicans of Vermillion met in convention recently and indorsed Cullom and Cannon. The delegation to the State Convention leads off with Mr. Cannon as Chairman, closely followed by Editor Jewell. Mr. Cullom wants Vermillion to support him for a Senatorial nomination, and it stands to reason his friends in Will will be of a responsive nature when the Congressional fight comes up for settlement.

The new Thirteenth is Republican

through and through. Congressman Funk of McLean will be renominated beyond question, it is thought, although Champaign County will support F. M. Wright. The Democratic nomination is of no consequence, being merely perfunctory.

Hardin Masters of Fulton County will probably be named as the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Fourteenth District. The Democrats have a majority regarded by them at least as safe, and from present indications Masters will be the nominee. John M. Niehaus of Peoria has been mentioned, but the gentleman is a holdover Senator, and the Democrats will take no chances in filling vacancies in doubtful districts occasioned by resignations.

The Fifteenth and Sixteenth too are Democratic districts. George A. Anderson of Adams, Congressman McDannold of Brown, William Neece of McDonough, Truman Plautz of Hancock, Representative Meyers of Henderson, and possibly J. H. Hanley of Warren will be the candidates. It's anybody's fight, with the odds in favor of Neece. The Republicans will nominate Gen. Marsh, who will make a mighty effort to overcome the Democratic majority of about 2,000 in the district.

Candidates in the Sixteenth.
W. P. Cullom of Morgan, Ham Bell of Macoupin, Joseph M. Page of Jersey, Henry Rainey or Judge Lee Lakin of Greene, Senator Sylvester Allen of Scott, Finis E. Downing of Cass, and Elsie Williams or Judge Doocy of Pike will contest for the Democratic nomination in the Sixteenth. The convention meets at Jacksonville May 8. The nomination of a candidate for Supreme Judge in the Fourth District will do much toward shaping the result of the Congressional convention.

The Seventeenth is the Springer district, and is composed of Menard, Logan, Sangamon, Mason and Christian Counties. It is Democratic by about 1,800 majority. The impression has obtained throughout the State that this district was in great fermentation and that nothing but politics was talked about or discussed. Quite the contrary obtains. Some time ago the Hon. Charles E. Hay, of this city, was mentioned as a candidate against Mr. Springer. This created something of a breeze at the time, but of late nothing further was heard of the matter. Mr. Hay is a prominent man in this part of the State and stands high in business and social circles. Ex-Senator Shumway, of Christian, was also brought out. Mr. Springer will, it is believed beyond doubt, be renominated. His election is quite another matter. The Republicans can, if they will, unite on a candidate, give Mr. Springer an unusually hard fight. They may be able to beat him. Some years ago Major Connolly brought his majority of 4,000 or 5,000 in the old district down to about 800. A good many people believe the Major can defeat Springer this time. The Major says he will take the nomination if it comes to him with any degree of unanimity, and do his best to beat Springer. He declares he will not engage in a fight before the nominating convention. H. Clay Wilson, of this city, will ask the convention to nominate him. Mr. Wilson has been a

member of the Legislature from Sangamon County, and has a good following among the Republicans. Mason County will offer ex-Senator W. C. Johns, in the hope of his nomination in the event of a hot contest among the Republicans of Sangamon.

Mr. Lawrence in the Field.
C. E. Lawrence, of Elkhart, Logan County, will also ask the nomination. Mr. Lawrence is a wealthy farmer, and some years ago acceptably represented the old Logan County district in the Legislature. He is particularly strong among the farmers, and promises, in the event of his nomination, to make a house-to-house canvass of the district. The way the fight is progressing, some man outside of Sangamon will be chosen to contest with Mr. Springer.

Edward Lane will in all probability be renominated by the Democrats in the Eighteenth. A number of prospective candidates have been mentioned in this district, but Lane has the matter well in hand and will win without serious opposition. The district is Democratic, and the Republicans have little chance of carrying it.

The Nineteenth District will be close. The Democrats will nominate George W. Fithian, who has been abusing the administration and shouting for free silver and an increased tax on diamonds. The Republicans will make a fight against Fithian, and have half a dozen candidates to select from. Tom Golden, of Marshall, Clark County, and Horace Clay Clark, of Mattoon, would make the contest, as would also Mr. Lynch, of Olney. They have a good show of success unless, indeed, they get into a wrangle in their Congressional convention.

The Twentieth District is Democratic, and at present is represented by Mr. Williams, of Carmi, White County, who succeeded the Hon. Dick Townsend, deceased, of Shawneetown. Mr. Williams will be renominated by acclamation. There is no candidate against him of sufficient strength to make any trouble. Senator James R. Campbell has, as they say down in Egypt, "been threatened" to be a candidate for Congress, but James is not in earnest in the premises. He is a holdover Senator and the atmosphere of the State Capital is more congenial than that of Washington. James will want the vote of Wayne County two years hence in a Senatorial convention, and Mr. Williams may be able to assist him in getting it. Mr. Campbell is not a serious obstacle in Mr. Williams' path.

Ambitious Men in the Twenty-first.
St. Clair, Clinton, Marion, Monroe, Washington, Randolph, and Perry make up the new Twenty-first District. Mr. William S. Forman, of

Washington, now represents it in Congress. The district is loaded to the guards with ambitious Democrats. It is rich in Democratic genius. St. Clair has Nic Perrin. Monroe is the home of Col. William H. Morrison. Waterloo is the county seat of Monroe, and Waterloo, according to John Reynolds' "My Own Times," was a town when Chicago was unheard of. Col. Morrison is the idol of the Democrats of Monroe. He is the man of all men there, and his word is law. Every man, woman, and child in Waterloo knows the Colonel. His constituency is sincere. Peter Bickelhaupt, Judge Erb, Pete Feller, everybody is for Morrison. Randolph is for Cole, who does not want an office, and William Hartzell, who served a term in Congress once, and has ever since been desirous of repeating the experiment. James D. Baker, the Warden of the Chester Prison, may prove quite a factor in Randolph County politics. Clinton has Rufus N. Ramsey, Augustus Van Hoorbeeke and Andrew Jackson Sparks. Mr. Forman has a proprietary interest in Washington, and William K. Murphy, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Cairo district, is the man of all men in Perry. Thomas Emmett Merritt has returned to political life in Marion. He was beaten for the Legislature some years ago by a gentleman named Holtzlaw. Thomas was sore at heart, but he bided his time. The Holtzlaws got into an altercation with the deadly hired man, and the result was a suit brought by said hired man in the Circuit Court to recover damages for bodily injury. Mr. Thomas Emmett Merritt was the principal counsel for the plaintiff. It is understood as a result of the proceedings said hired man has accumulated some wealth, and Mr. Merritt is rehabilitated every way. Mr. Merritt will seek nomination for the Legislature with some prospects of success.

Hard Lines for Forman.
That's the kind of a district Mr. Forman has to tackle. He has all the elements to contend with, and his preserves are filled with men who would be glad to throw him down. Does anybody for a minute suppose Gen. Sparks or Gus Van Hoorbeeke would decline a nomination to Congress? Would Mr. Merritt, or Mr. Hartzell, or Henry Selzer, or C. D. Hall cast the honor aside? Nic Perrin of St. Clair would like to succeed Mr. Forman, and St. Clair County is for him. Nic Perrin is an exceedingly bright young man, and has for some years been engaged in writing a history of Illinois. He was formally announced as a candidate for Congress, but last week a St. Louis newspaper said he had withdrawn from

the fight. His friends here say he will be a candidate, and will have the delegation from St. Clair and a portion of that of Monroe. It's to Forman's interest to get Perrin out of the way. Mr. Van Hoorbeeke will have Clinton and possibly part of Marion. Mr. Forman will have Washington and Perry, with fractions of Monroe and Marion. Mr. William Hartzell will get Randolph and some scattering strength from other counties. It all hinges on Mr. Perrin. If he stays in the fight Mr. Forman is in danger of defeat.

Mr. Forman is by some of the leaders of the Democracy in his district accused of interference in the Senatorial business in the interest of a gentleman from Northern Illinois. In order to create a division, Mr. Forman will be fought in his own district. A number of men down in the Twenty-first think he had better attend strictly to his own affairs.

Down in the Twenty-second.

The Twenty-second Congressional District is overwhelmingly Republican, and is composed of Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Union, Johnson, Pope, Alexander, Pulaski, and Massac counties. George W. Smith, of Jackson, has represented the old district, the Twentieth, in Congress for several terms, succeeding John H. Thomas. Mr. Smith lives in Jackson county, and he has its delegation to the Congressional convention at his back. He is one of the best campaigners in Southern Illinois. Several men started out to get the nomination. J. A. Rose, of Golconda, Pope county, who was one of the Trustees of the Chester Prison under Gov. Fifer, was a candidate. Alexander county offered two men—N. B. Thistlewood and Walter Warden. Esq. Dr. Fowler, of Williamson, also wanted the nomination. The delegates from Alexander were instructed to vote for Thistlewood. Mr. Warden withdrew from the Congressional contest and will return to the Legislature. He was the Republican candidate for Temporary Speaker of the House at the last session, and this time will seek the Speakership. He will prove a likely candidate for the place, too, having no end of friends in the House. Dr. Fowler has Williamson County, and will be happy to throw its delegation over to Smith if the votes are necessary to Smith's success. Mr. Rose has Pope County, and that is about the extent of his strength. Mr. Smith has Jackson and Massac—next door to Pope. He will land Union, Johnson, and Saline. His nomination is about as sure as anything can be in politics. Mr. Smith knows his constituents, and he knows them well. In the heat of summer, in campaign years, he wears long hair and box-toed tongue boots, a suit of farmers' satin, the coat being a single-breasted frock, and a hickory cane with a crook handle. Thus equipped he sails down the Mississippi and up the Ohio, patronizing the packet boats. A campaign is a season of great comfort for George Washington Smith. He takes life leisurely and gets elected every time.

MASON WILL FIGHT CULLOM.

The Ex-Congressman Is a Red-Hot Candidate for Election to the National Senate.

He Will Fight Every Inch of the Ground with Shelby M. Cullom, the Incumbent.

General Gossip of a Political Nature of Interest to Readers of "The Eagle."

William E. Mason, of Chicago, and Senator Cullom are now fairly pitted against each other in a fight to capture the indorsement of the State Republican Convention for Senator or the control of the Republican side of the next General Assembly. Five of the county conventions preparatory to the State convention have been held. They were called by organizations favorable to Senator Cullom. Three of them were captured by Mr. Mason and two declared in favor of the Senator. So the fight stands as between the two Republicans, while the Democrats are getting ready to take the seat of Senator Cullom for one of their number.

The two conventions that were won by the Cullom people were held before Mr. Mason announced himself as a candidate. In fact when he did open his campaign for Senator Cullom's job the friends of the Senator pretended to regard it as one of his practical jokes. They decided to show at once what an easy race their man had against the jocular man from the West Side. They called conventions in Clark, Richmond and Jasper Counties, and were assured by the Postmasters and Government employes there that the conventions would instruct for the man from Sangamon. The conventions were held, the date of the last one being last Saturday. All three declared for Mason.

The ex-Congressman says he has a law business that takes him into these three counties. The conventions being held at the county seats and he, happening to be there while they were in progress, just "dropped in to pass a joke or two" with his friends, and the name in the resolutions of instructions was changed from Cullom to Mason in all three cases. This brilliant onslaught of Mason's astonished the Cullom men and they now believe that their opponent is not joking. Daniel Ray, one of Senator Cullom's friends, who is a committee clerk in the Senate, has come to Chicago and Illinois to see to it that the fences of the Senator are in better shape.

After Jasper County had declared for Mason, Cullom's friends gave it to the Republican press that such action was not due to Mason's popularity, but because Cullom was unpopular with disappointed office seekers. At this, however, Mason only smiled, and followed his first victory by bagging the two other delegations. This additional defeat the Senator's friends did not take time to explain. Whether Mason was loved too much or Cullom too little was a matter of small importance; at any rate, the joke was getting serious and Senator Cullom was appealed to. "Dan" Ray was sent to Illinois in charge of a corps of the Senator's clerks, who are said to be on the Government's payroll, and they say that Mason will not get away with any more delegations so easily. But Mason continues to wear his contented smile, and his friends say that he will saw some more wood soon.

It is said in Senator Cullom's behalf that he has sacrificed much for the Republican party. Mr. Mason admits this and says the Senator ought not to be called upon to sacrifice any more. He says he is willing

to do a little sacrificing himself now. In addition to his popularity among the Republicans, the ex-Congressman declares he finds many supporters in Chicago because his townspeople believe there should be a Senator from this city, whereas both of the present Senators are residents of Springfield. Mr. Mason believes if the Cook County Republicans are loyal to him, as he is the only candidate from Cook County, he will have enough votes to nominate in the State convention or the legislative caucus.

Mr. Mason was in his law office Monday, having returned from his trip to the southern part of the State, whither he went "on law business." He said he was well satisfied with the progress of his campaign. He did not care to talk about it much, he said, so he told a funny story.

William Dunn, whose father was one of the first settlers of Chicago and who was himself born in this city, is a candidate for the Clerkship of the Criminal Court. He lives in Twelfth Ward and claims he will have the support of the delegation from that ward. A. O. Cooper and P. J. Cahill, who also reside in the Twelfth Ward, are candidates for the Probate Clerkship. Each claims as strong a support as Mr. Dunn.

William Boldenweck says he has not withdrawn from the contest for County Treasurer. He is yet in the field and proposes to make a hard fight to get the nomination. Mr. Boldenweck, it is understood, is in the Wulff-Hull-Kerr combination.

R. E. Conway declines to be considered a Republican candidate for Congress in the Lake-Cicero District, where Clayton E. Crafts wants the Democratic nomination. It is probable now the Republican nomination will go to Charles E. Piper, President of the Cicero Town Board.

As ex-Speaker Crafts is booked for Congress, the Democrats of the Seventh Senatorial District talk of nominating Hope Reed Cody for the Legislature. Cody is a bright young attorney, and son of ex-Circuit Judge Hiram H. Cody. Mr. Cody resides at Austin.

Gen. Smith D. Atkins has begun operations in Chicago to obtain part of the Cook County delegation. It is understood at the conference last week some sort of a combination was effected among the Cullom, Fifer and Atkins forces with a view to controlling the State convention. The discussions in Cook County give encouragement to this combine.

Ernst J. Magerstadt, it is said, will be a candidate for one of the court clerkships, probably for that of the Criminal Court.

Samuel B. Raymond, who has been at St. Joseph's Hospital several weeks convalescing from an operation for appendicitis, was taken to his home, No. 56 Cedar street, Monday afternoon. Mr. Raymond ate dinner with his family Monday night and it was a happy gathering. It was said at his home that he had recovered